

THE TOKEN HUNTER



A Publication of the

10th Anniversary

National Utah Token Society

Dedicated To Collecting, Recording and Preserving Medals and Tokens

OFFICERS

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	Allen Cunningham	1-884-6577
editor	Geneal Close	1-224-1357

NEXT MEETING

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JANUARY						
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SPEAKER:

This months speaker will be MEL MILGRAM he found some good finds over the years! He has hunted relics back East with great success, & doing very well in Utah also.

10th Anniversary

PRIZES:

Promptness Prize - 1898 Silver Dollar

Plaza Bar/ SLC, Ut/ GF 2.5c
Beehive Merc./ Manti, Ut/ GF 10c
St. Cecile/ SLC, UT/ GF 5c
Guild Farm/ ??/ GF 1 qt. milk
MORE! MORE! MORE!



NEXT MEETING

The next club meeting will be held Thursday, January 23 at 7:15 p.m. at the Redwood Multi-purpose Center.

TOKEN HUNTER NOTES

Congratulations to the new officers and board. I know that this up coming year will be a great one. This is the clubs 10th anniversary! Lets make it special!

Club Dues are here again! So please pay them as soon as you can. The club cannot function without them. The 1992 dues are \$9.00 for single membership and \$13.00 for the family. Were else can you get a years worth of entertainment for only \$13.00? Its a bargain!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear N.U.T.S. Club Members,

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas party, there were some great prizes raffled off. Congratulations to all who won. Just remember, the more meetings you attend through the year, the more tickets you receive at the end of the year.

We hope to increase our attendance this year, we hope to have some speakers that will interest everyone.

This months speaker is Mel Milgram, he will tell us about some of his good and fun finds.

We would like to extend our thanks to Eric Bernkopf for the great job he did as president last year, I sure hope I can do as good job as he did. Thank you again for those who voted me in as the new president.

We would like to welcome Ryan Shurtz as a new club member in 1992.

We hope to see all of you this up comming meeting.

Sincerely, *Ralph Gold*
Ralph Gold

+++++

DEAR DAD: Thing\$ are pretty good here at \$chool, but they could be better. Some thing\$ are needed mo\$t de\$peratly. I hope you can gue\$\$ what I mean and \$end Some Soon.

YOUR LOVING SON.

DEAR SON: NOthing is new here. I kNOW that you are doing better NOW that you have been. Write aNOther letter son. I want to get this off in the NOon mail, so I'll sign off NOW.

LOVE DAD

~~NOTES AND~~ DOODLES

EDITORS DESK:

In this issue, being the month and Anniversary of the club. I inclosed a page from the first issue of the Token Hunter. I would like to thank Byron E. for sending me a copy of the first two volumes. I think it would be nice to include in each month a page from past issues.

If any of the members have any old copies of The Token Hunter, that I could borrow to "zipp off" for the paper I would appreciate it. No harm will come of them, I will return them to you promptly.

I talked to Eric last night, he said he may not be to the next meeting, the doctor is going to start his wife in labor, that day.
CONGRATULATION MOM & DAD!



Please contribute to the TOKEN HUNTER. Our newsletter is only as good as we, the membership makes it. Is there a treasured tale, or a unusual find that you have made? Or how about a funny experience? Why not share it with the club. It does not have to be a full page, just a few line would be great. Or just a paragraph. They all add up. If you have something to contribute, please have it to me 10 day prior to the Thursday meeting. MAIL TO:

Geneal Close
155 So. 1200 W. #98
Orem, Utah 84057



The Christmas dinner was very enjoyable! Lots of great food! And of course Some terrific PRIZES! After passing out awards and swearing in new officer, we had a great raffle. I can't remember who won what, but here some of the prizes:

- 9- Silver Dollars'
- 3- Silver Rounds
- 4- Gold 20th oz. South Dakota Buffalos'
A Gold / Diamond nugget
Store Card with a Indian head penny on it

100% attendance awards were:

Julie Gold
Ralph Gold
Geneal Close
Eric Jameson

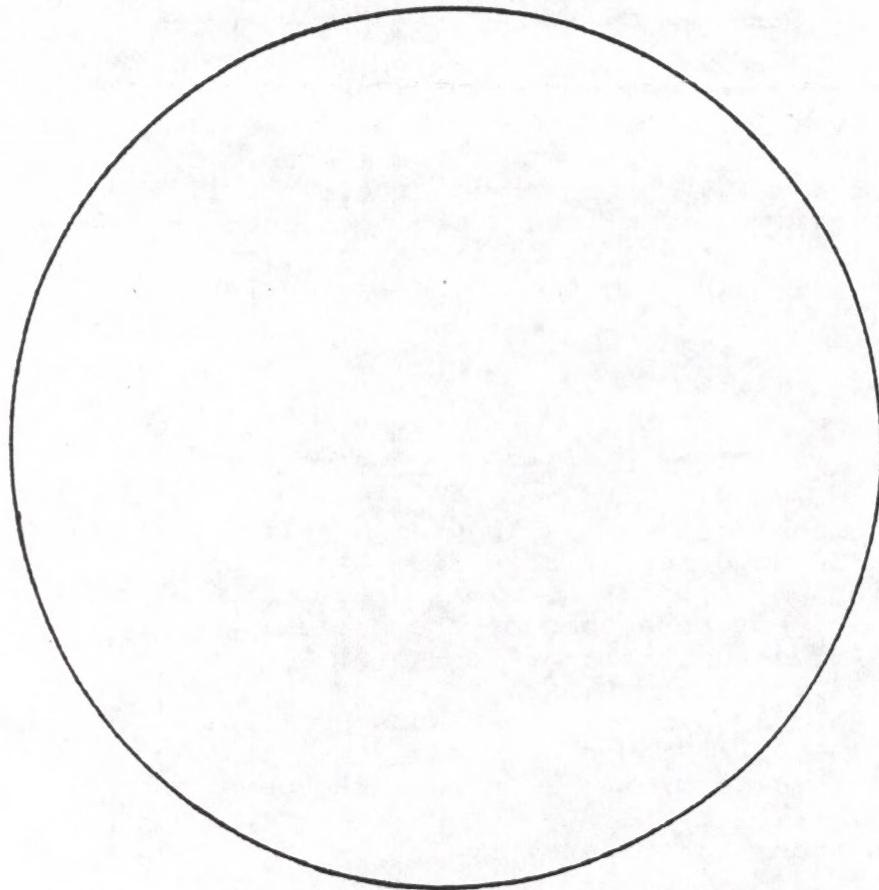
If I forgot someone I'm sorry.

~~SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT~~

For the new Year we need to start thinking about this years medal design, remember we just need the design for one side only.

This year is the Clubs' 10th Anniversary, maybe something pertaining to that?

MAKE UP YOUR DESIGN FOR THE



1992 NUTS MEDAL



TOKEN HUNTER



Volume No.

1

No. 1

A publication of the NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY

44 East Stratford Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

Dedicated to the Collecting, Recording, and Preservation
of Tokens and Medals.



Did you ever ride a bus, streetcar, ferry, or cross a toll bridge that required you to use a token? If you did, what you used is called a vecture. If you lived in Salt Lake City back around 1901 The Good Old Days a man with a thirst walked into a nearby Saloon and got a drink; chances are he paid for it with a coin called a Trade Token! Perhaps you were one of those persons born lucky and didn't have to carry a good luck coin, like many did in the 1920 - 30 period. Perhaps you know of someone who won a medal!

Would you like a three dimensional view of history and a hobby that is relatively inexpensive, highly intriguing, extremely interesting, rewarding, and fascinating? Then how about prospecting for the thousands of little treasures known as Tokens?! Largely overlooked by collectors, tokens, checks, scrip - call them what you will - may still be found all around you. If you would, then come join the NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY and become a token NUT.

So what is a token? Simply put, it is usually a coin struck and used by private business. A piece of metal stamped and exchanged for a higher value than the metal is worth or stamped with other wording and used for various purposes instead of money. There are tokens that say, "Good for a Drink", "Good for a Cigar", "Good for 12 ½¢ in Trade", and even "Good for 10 sticks of Powder", plus dozens of different needs. Actually, tokens were made out of most common metals: brass, white metal, aluminum, copper, but also they were created from paper, fibre, cardboard, celluloid, wood, and lately plastic. Just about all shapes are represented, round, octagonal, square, petal (scalloped), and many have different types of cut-outs in the center. Up to now, just under 4,000 have been discovered by collectors from towns and cities all over Utah, and it is estimated a possible 20,000 any more may be laid in the ground, in boxes in dark corners, or hidden in trunks in attics. Many are found by metal detector enthusiasts, bottle diggers, or the average householder in drawers. Pieces may be purchased for a little as ten cents, some up into higher figures.

Medals are a fascinating collectible with a wide field of study open to the discerning collector. They cover a most interesting and instructive scope and have such a personal link. There is something thrilling and satisfying to have a medal won by men who took part in battles, or who formed part of a team as did early Mormon Pioneers in the founding of Utah. Although still a very new field, they are now commanding interest.

Harry F Campbell - Editor





ANNOUNCEMENT



The National Utah Token Society will get together on the 4th Wednesday of every month, except December when a big yearly party is forecast. This Society is dedicated to all aspects of the Token and Medal field, with a monthly newsletter to inform members of news of local, national, and international happenings.

It is intended to get all family members to participate, and outings to ghost towns and other areas are planned for the near future for the purpose of hunting and research. A point system is suggested to encourage members to participate in activities of the Society, and at year end, these points will be used in an auction for many prizes. Even if you are not able to attend meetings, Don't Worry. You can still earn points through many projects - many to be published in the February issue of "Token Hunter". A non-political but casual aspect will be taken towards get-togethers with interest directed to trading and buying/selling of materials, together with research of finds and dispensing of information via presentations and lectures.

For the first time, those out of town and state members can participate even though they are not able to attend. So, come one and all and join your friends as a N U T.



MEET YOUR FRIENDS



Wishing you
Happiness
in



TUCKER
(Geneal Close)



About 50 miles up Spanish Fork Canyon, just before you start up the steep grade to Soldier Summit, there sits a quite little rest area maintained by the State. The only thing that would give any idea that a small town once stood in that location, is a bulletin board with some tattered old photos.

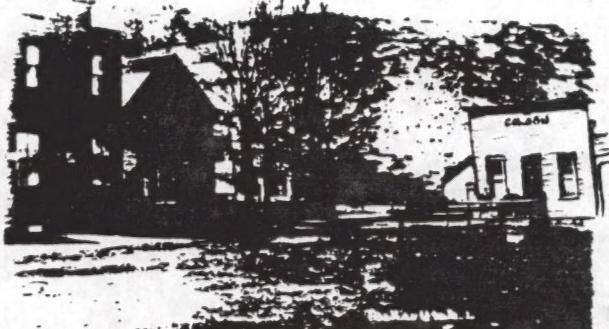
A picture of a old school house with a huge bell tower on top of it! It once stood about two or three hundred yards up the west canyon. All there is now is little flat. A few more old photos shows what the town looked like in her hey-day. This is all that remains of the town of Tucker---at one time a place of 800 to 900 inhabitants. The railroad practically built it a hundred years ago when it became a Denver and Rio Grande Western station, with a number of engines, a roundhouse, and other equipment kept here for helping the trains up the four per cent grade to the summit. The railroad literally took it away when it changed its course, reducing the grade from four per cent to two per cent.

It was no longer necessary to put on the extra engines at this point, the railroad moved its equipment and the town lost its means of support.

The buildings that were worth anything were torn down and hauled to Soldier Summit or to Thistle. The buildings that were not worth anything, which included a very good percentage of them were burned.

It is said that this place was first established by the "Mormons" who used it to go to the mines at Scofield for coal. About 1879 a narrow gauge track was constructed from Tucker to Winter Quarters. (The "Calico Road")

At first Tucker was called Cleer Creek, "probably because the creek which went by the place was as dirty and muddy as it could be," said H.M. Cushing traveling passenger agent for the Denver & Rio Grande Western.



Mr. Cushing came out to this part of the country in the early 1880s, and he was well acquainted with the town before its "demise." However the name of the town was later changed as some of the mines in that part of the country also adopted the name "Clear Creek." Even though Tucker, argued the spelling was different.

Tucker was named after Jim Tucker, who was one of the mining men of the region, who later ran a store at Eureka.

Tucker was established as a Denver & Rio Grande Western station in 1883, and so Tucker became a typical frontier railroad town, with its saloons gambling houses, red light district, and all the accessories that go to make the "high life."

It became notorious as a gambling place, said Mr. Cushing, and a considerable amount of money exchanged hands during an evening of the indoor sport. However these places are said to have been kept away from the town proper, with a sort of district all their own.

The town was pretty well scattered up and down the canyon along the railroad tracks, in addition to occupying a canyon or two that comes into the main canyon at right angles.

The town was chiefly occupied by foreigners especially those from southern Europe. Because of the generally undesirable conditions it was pretty hard to keep men there. After a few months in Tucker they wanted to get back to one of the other towns.

In 1915 the railroad decided to change its course, so as to reduce the grade from four to, two per cent as it meant a great deal of expense to put on engines in order to haul an ordinary train up to the summit.

As a result the coarse was changed so that instead of covering only seven miles from Tucker it now covers fourteen, as the train winds back and forth in climbing to the summit, instead of making it on a nearly straight run.

As the grade was now cut in half it was no longer necessary to put on a half dozen helper engines, so the station at Tucker was taken away, and the town of Tucker went with it.

Tucker is only one example of what has happened many times in the past. A town springs up, flourishes, then dies out.

When the transcontinental railroad was being built shortly after the Civil War many small towns sprang up like mushrooms along the tracks and as long as the army of workers were there, they did very well but when the men moved on they died out and were soon forgotten. Of course it is not only along the railroads that these towns have sprang up. There are many examples!



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